

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Senior marshals present gift proposals

### Senior gift ideas

Seniors will vote Nov. 1 on which of the following three gifts they will leave as part of their legacy to UNC.

- An endowment for advising development to provide additional training for academic advisers.
- An artistic mural to be placed somewhere on campus.
- A welcome sign to the University outside of McCorkle Place on Franklin Street.

SOURCE: BOBBY WHISNANT  
DTH/BOBBY SWEATT

### DETAILED INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN POLK PLACE

BY ALLISON NICHOLS  
STAFF WRITER

After months of consideration, senior class leaders will announce their top three ideas for the senior class gift today.

One option is a welcome sign at the entrance to campus outside McCorkle Place on Franklin

Street.

Also under consideration is an artistic mural to be placed somewhere on campus.

The third choice is an advising department endowment to provide additional training for academic advisers.

Detailed information on the

three gifts will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in Polk Place.

Senior Class President Bobby Whisnant said he is excited about the three choices.

"I think we have a really good mix," he said. "These are three gifts that students can be excited about and proud about giving back to the University."

Today's release marks the end of months of planning that went into the selection of the choices.

The fundraising committee has

been working since March to formulate ideas. Its members spoke with University administration, various academic departments,

**INSIDE**  
Some seniors feel left out of gift drafting  
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The committee presented 10 ideas to the marshals, who then voted for the top three.

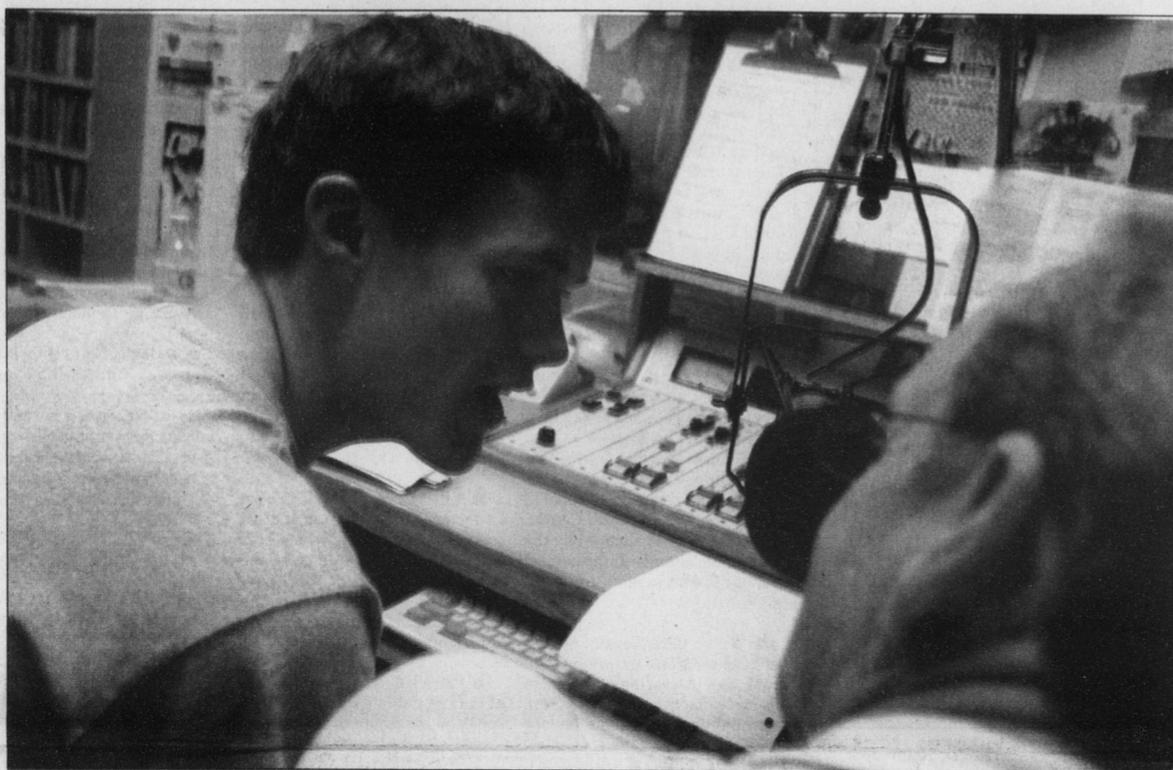
Seniors will vote for their favorite option during Homecoming elections Nov. 1.

Whisnant said his hope for the senior class is for it to leave a blueprint for future classes.

He said he realizes the choices the marshals selected will not please everyone, but he said the diverse staff of marshals represent the senior class well.

"I don't think seniors realize

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DTH/ELLEN PENNINGER

Student Body President Seth Dearmin (left) interviews economics professor Ralph Byrns on Sunday night on Dearmin's radio show at UNC's WXYC station.

## COME IN, CAMPUS

Dearmin, like predecessors, looks at ways to engage students

BY BRANDON REED, STAFF WRITER

The goal of the student body president is to take a plethora of interests and meld them into one cohesive plan of action.

And the first challenge is finding out what these interests are and then letting students know what is being done about them — something that student leaders have found is easier said than done.

"It's a challenge — it's one of the biggest challenges," said Matt Tepper, student body president in 2003-04. "People do it to get elected, so it's possible."

"We had to make sure that we were spreading out our ways of communicating with the student body," he said.

And no one outlet is going to catch every student, said Matt Calabria, last year's student body president.

"The goal is to come up with a cocktail of different measures," he said.

If an article runs in The Daily Tar Heel, it does not mean every student reads it, he said.

It is often mentioned on campus tours that if a student were to sit in the Pit for 24 hours they would see everyone on campus.

But Calabria said he disagrees — a president cannot meet all his or her constituents by being passive. Graduate students often do not go by the Pit, and many undergraduates do

not stay long enough to notice student government representatives.

"I'm usually moving through the Pit pretty fast," said Josh Long, a senior from Clemmons.

In order to reach the larger audience that he can't see in person, Student Body President Seth Dearmin is hitting the airwaves — both the television and radio variety.

He said Carolina Week and WXYC-89.3 FM are just two more ways to reach his constituency.

Tepper kicked off this tradition with "In Step with Tepp" two years ago, and

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## Future of Triangle transit up to study

TTA must prove ridership to continue with planning

BY ERIN GIBSON  
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

If the Triangle Transit Authority is able to meet its series of deadlines, a new rail system could provide an alternative to driving in heavy traffic, helping to connect Triangle residents.

The TTA rail system would connect Raleigh and Durham with trains and a revamped bus system. Eventually, a route would add Chapel Hill to the mix.

Garold Smith, TTA director of communications and public affairs said TTA is requesting about 60 percent of the funding for the now-\$689 million project from the Federal Transit Administration. Project costs have increased annually since the regional transit plan was first drafted in the mid-1990s.

To receive full funding, TTA first must prove that the ridership would make the project cost effective.

"(We must show) the relationship between ridership and the benefits associated with that ridership versus the cost of ridership," said Brad Schulz, communication officer for TTA.

He said a ridership study submitted to the FTA in October 2004 showed high ridership and cost effectiveness.

But he added that some of the figures were challenged by the FTA, prompting a new review.

The updated cost effectiveness predictions are due to the FTA by Oct. 14. If the funding is approved, construction will begin within the next year, with the first train scheduled to run in 2008.

### A changing community

The population in the Triangle is constantly growing and changing, so the TTA must try to predict that growth when considering ridership.

Schulz said the rail system will provide opportunities for economic development as areas around the stations grow into larger communities.

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## Parents struggle to let go

Students have to keep close contact

BY SAPNA MAHESHWARI  
STAFF WRITER

Freshman Kyle Doty has had more than one surprise visit from his parents.

"They've called from outside my dorm at least three times," says Doty, who is from Apex. "They just showed up to check on me and give me a hug and a kiss."

Doty is not alone. "Eight of my last incoming calls were from my mother and seven of my missed calls, too," says freshman Seth McDaniel of Morganton.

After their sons or daughters leave home for college, many parents are reluctant to let go.

Some parents, however, take those concerns to the next level with continued involvement in their children's lives. The number of these hovering parents, or "helicopter parents," has spiked in recent years.

"It's fear of the unknown," says Kelley Germaine, national co-chairwoman of the Carolina Parents Council with husband Bob Germaine.

The University fields calls from concerned parents every day, in departments ranging from the Office of Greek Affairs to the Department of Housing

*"Eight of my last incoming calls were from my mother and seven of my missed calls, too."*

SETH MCDANIEL, FRESHMAN

and Residential Education to the Office of the Dean of Students.

"During peak times of the year, we probably get 100 phone calls a day ... I would guess that somewhere between 60 to 70 percent of

SEE HOVERING, PAGE 5

## Don't have to show 'em the money

### Campaign finances

Spending in Town Council races is not yet to the level of past years, though spending doesn't always translate to success at the polls.

TOP FOUR CAMPAIGN SPENDERS 2001	
D.R. Bryan	\$11,123
Edith Wiggins*	\$8,854
Mark Kleinschmidt*	\$6,610
Dorothy Verkerk*	\$6,240

TOP FOUR CAMPAIGN SPENDERS 2003	
Diane Bachman	\$17,891
Rudy Juliano	\$12,443
Thatcher Freund	\$10,015
Sally Greene*	\$7,209

TOP FOUR CAMPAIGN SPENDERS 2005	
Bill Thorpe	\$1,594.87
Laurin Easthom	\$1,300.28
Mark Kleinschmidt	\$889.09
Ed Harrison	\$759.47

\*Election winners  
SOURCE: ORANGE CO. BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
DTH/BOBBY SWEATT

BY TED STRONG  
CITY EDITOR

It goes by many names: loot, lucre, dough, greenbacks, clams, moolah and cash.

Whatever name it goes by, it's hard to get elected, even to local office, without at least some of it. But a candidate needn't spend too much to make a good showing, experts say.

Candidates interact with money in two main ways on the campaign trail — getting it and spending it.

The getting, says Joe Capowski, former mayor pro tem, is just a matter of sending letters asking for funding from "400 of your closest friends."

Of course, sending those let-

ters out generally requires some sort of seed money, which often comes from the candidate's own pockets — albeit somewhat indirectly.

A candidate often loans a little money to him or herself, then pays that money back once the donations start rolling in.

These contributions range from the small — council candidate Will Raymond netted \$10 from Tom Jensen, leader of Students for a Progressive Chapel Hill — to the enormous. Paul Newton, running for Hillsborough Town

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**DEEP IMPACT** ECSU is a major player in the economy of its region, a study finds

**ANTE UP** Sigma Chi holds a Texas Hold'em tournament for hurricane relief

**DEFEND ME** U.S. Rep. Richard Burr drafts a bill to aid pharmaceutical patents

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**DAYS LEFT TO REGISTER TO VOTE**

for more information, see  
www.co.orange.nc.us/elect/

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**A LITTLE 3 ON 3**

Tar Heel fanatics battle to the wire in CAA's annual fundraiser/basketball tourney in the hopes of securing Duke basketball tickets.



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**DIRTY SENSE OF HUMOR**

The Dirty South Improv group opens up a new venue in the Carr Mill Mall on Friday. Though small, the group says the venue is OK by them.

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